

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 05180 291807Z

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-04 SIL-01 CIAE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05 /040 W

-----300645Z 030357 /13

R 291611Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE 3672

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5180

LIMDIS

NORFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINR, IT

SUBJECT: UIL HOPES AFL-CIO WILL ATTEND UIL'S JUNE CONGRESS

REF: A) ROME 4892; B) ROME 4046; C) ROME 3076

PASS LABOR FOR HOLMES

1. SUMMARYBM UIL IS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE AFL-CIO REPRESENTED AT JIL'S JUNE CONGRESS, UIL WILL ALSO INVITE EAST EUROPEAN DISSIDENTS FOR ONE DAY OF CONGRESS WHICH WILL FEATURE DISCUSSION OF REPRESSION IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. UIL INTERNATIONAL OFFICE CHIEF DRAGO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 05180 291807Z

SOUGHT EMBASSY GUIDANCE ON HOW BEST TO INVITE AFL-CIO AND HIGHLIGHTED VARIOUS ANTI-COMMUNIST INITIATIVES OF NEW UIL LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY

.

2. UIL INTERNATIONAL OFFICE CHIEF FRANCESCO DRAGO CAME TO EMBASSY MARCH 24 TO FOLLOW UP EARLIER DISCUSSION (REF C.) AND STRESS UIL'S DESIRE FOR AFL-CIO ATTENDANCE AT UIL'S CONGRESS

IN BOLOGNA AT THE END OF JUNE. DRAGO SAID UIL HAD DECIDED TO INVITE CZECH AND PERHAPS POLISH DISSIDENTS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES AND TO FOCUS ON REPRESSION IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES DURING FULL DAY OF DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES JULY 1. HE REFERRED TO BENVENUTO'S WELL PUBLICIZED MEMBERSHIP IN AN ITALIAN COMMITTEE SUPPORTING DISSIDENTS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. DRAGO SUGGESTED THAT HOLDING THE CONGRESS AND DISCUSSING DISSENT IN THE EAST IN COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD BOLOGNA WAS A DELIBERATE UIL PROVOCATION OF THE PCI.

DRAGO ASKED HOW BEST TO INVITE AFL-CIO. EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER SUGGESTED EITHER LETTER FROM UIL SEC GEN BENVENUTO TO PRESIDENT MEANY OR CONTACT WITH AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN. DRAGO MENTIONED HIS EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH BROWN, ASKED WHEN BROWN WOULD NEXT BE IN ITALY AND SAID THAT HE, DRAGO, WOULD VISIT PARIS SHORTLY AND MAY TRY TO SEE BROWN THERE. HOWEVER, DRAGO REFERRED OBLIGUELY TO CONCERN BY BENVENUTO ABOUT POSSIBLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT THAT CONTACT WITH BROWN MIGHT ENTAIL. DRAGO SAID UIL WOULD BE PARTICULARLY PLEASED IF THE AFL-CIO ATTENDED THEIR CONGRESS AND NOT CISL'S.

4. DRAGO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO HIGHLIGHT MORE VIGOROUS ROLE HE FELT UIL WAS PLAYING UNDER BENVENUTO IN CRITICIZING AND CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR COMMUNISTS WITHIN THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU), ESPECIALLY IN DEALING WITH GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY EFFORTS AND STUDENT PROTEST. HE FELT UIL WAS THUS GAINING CREDIBILITY AND SUPPORT AMONG YOUNG WORKERS AND STUDENTS. HE CLAIMED UIL HAD BLOCKED CGIL ENTRY INTO INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN CHEMICAL UNION TRADE SECRETARIATS, AIDED BY FACT CISL HAD DROPPED OUT. HE POINTED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 05180 291807Z

OUT THAT BENVENUTO HAD AVOIDED THE PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE AT GENEVA. DRAGO SAID BENVENUTO WAS CONSIDERING DISAFFILIATING FROM THE ICFTU WHICH HE CONSIDERED INEFFECTUAL AND EXPENSIVE, IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE CONTACTS WITH WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS AND WORK TO DIMINISH THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE EAST.

5. DRAGO SAID THAT SOCIALIST PREDOMINANCE IN AND THE NEW ACTIVISM OF THE UIL HAS MADE UIL, NOT CGIL, THE FOCUS OF SOCIALIST TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES, PUTTING THE CGIL SOCIALISTS IN THE SHADE, DESPITE THE FACT THERE ARE MORE SOCIALISTS IN THE CGIL THAN IN THE UIL. HE SAID THIS HAS ALSO STIMULATED THE CGIL SOCIALISTS TO TAKE A MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE WITHIN THE CGIL, SYMBOLIZED BY THE SUBSTITUTION OF MARIANETTI FOR BONI, AND WAS FORCING THE CGIL COMMUNISTS TO CONCEDE GREATER INFLUENCE AND VISIBILITY TO THE CGIL SOCIALISTS.

6. DRAGO SAID HE WOULD ATTEND THE EARLY APRIL MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTIES IN OSLO ALONG WITH BENVENUTO AND UIL SECRETARIES RAVENNA AND RAVECCA. HE SAID THE PSI WOULD BE

REPRESENTED IN OSLO BY ITS SECGEN CRAXI AND PROBABLY ALSO SIGNORILE, THE PSDI BY SECGEN ROMITA AND LONGO, ADD CISL SECRETARIES CARNITI, CREA, ROMEI AND GABAGLIO AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICE CHIEF BADUEL. ASKED WHY CISL AT A SOCIALIST GATHERING HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO BADUEL'S AMBITIONS AND MANEUVERINGS, AND SAID GABAGLIO HAS VAGUE SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS. HE CRITICIZED BADUEL BITTERLY FOR COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND SAID WAS MANEUVERING TO BE ELECTED AS A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC DEPUTY TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 1978 WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF CGIL SECRETARY AND INTERNATIONAL CHIEF ALDO BONACCINI.

8. COMMENT. DRAGO EMPHASIZED, PERHAPS EXAGGERATED, THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE NEW UIL LEADERSHIP'S BEHAVIOR MOST LIKELY TO APPEAL TO THE AFL-CIO. THE UIL LEADERSHIP IS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN REESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE AFL-CIO IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN ITS POLICIES WITH MUCH THE SAME MOTIVATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 05180 291807Z

AS THAT OF CISL'S NEW LEADERSHIP REF. A). WE FEEL IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR THE AFL-CIO TO RESUME DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF BOTH THE CISL AND THE UIL. CLEARLY, THE CISL IS THE MORE IMPORTANT OF THE TWO CONFEDERATIONS BECAUSE IT IS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE NUMEROUS. HOWEVER, WITHIN THE CCU FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS HAVE CO-EQUAL REPRESENTATION, THE UIL HAS AN IMPACT GREATER THAN IS SIZE WOULD OTHERWISE PRODUCE.

GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, MEETINGS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME05180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-0753
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770311/aaaaajah.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 168e01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 ROME 4892, 77 ROME 4046, 77 ROME 3076
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2959248
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UIL HOPES AFL-CIO WILL ATTEND UIL'S JUNE CONGRESS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PINR, IT, US, AFL-CIO, UIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/168e01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009